Company, a major American Power utility. Under the MoU the 'Zero Unit' had an installed capacity of 250 MW against the initial proposal of 210 MW.

(c) and (d) The project is one of the eight fast track powr projects for which counter guarantee of the Government of India would be available. The'project has received all the necessary clearances, in-cluding techno-economic clearance of CEA and has made considerable progress. The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been signed between the promoters and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board on 20.11.1996. On 16.5.1998, Government has approved issue of counter guarantee to the project in accordance with the revised procedure for issue of counter guarantee by Government of India.

Rural Employment Schemes

86. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the target fixed and achievements made under each of the rural employment schemes in physical and financial terms during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b)whether Government are providing any incentives to the skilled rural artisans for establishing industrial units on large scale;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether traditional skilled artisans are still unemployed in rural areas of the country; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) The physical and financial targets and achievements under major rural employment schemes viz. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during last three years, State-wise are given in the Annexure *[See Appendix 184, Annexure No.* 9]

(b) to (e) For providing employment and rehabilitating rural artisans (including skilled rural artisans), this Ministry is implementing a scheme of Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA). Under the scheme rural artisans Below Poverty Line (BPL) are to be given improved tools to enable them to enhance the quality/quantity/ marketability of their products and reduce drudgery. Artisans from different crafts except weavers, tailors, needle workers and beedi-workers are provided improved toolkits. The average cost of hand driven toolkit is Rs. 2000/- and for power driven toolkit, the average cost is Rs. 4500/-. 90% of the cost is being met as subsidy from the Government of India and remaining 10% is to be contributed by the beneficiary. Beyond this it is to be linked to loan under IRDP. At the district level DRDA is the nodal agency for implementation. The rural artisans belonging to BPL, families are also eligible for training under the TRYSEM scheme. For establishing income generating units, rural artisans can receive finance under IRDP wherein credit from bank and subsidy from Government can be available. Existence of unemployed skilled artisans can not be denied altogether. However, efforts are being made through the programme of SITRA, TRYSEM and IRDP for rehabilitating rural artisans.

सूखे की संभावना वाले क्षेत्र से संबंधित कार्यक्रम

87. **श्री अनंतराय देवशंकर दवे** : क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सूखे की संभावना वाले क्षेत्रोम से संबंधित कार्यक्रम में विभिन्न राज्यों में राज्य-वार कितने जिलों को शामिल किया गया है और इस संबंध में मौजूदा स्थिति क्या है;